

Legislator Visit Days

Bring your legislators to school – advocate for School Health Services to be a top funding priority in the next budget!

The School Nurse Legislator Visit Days can be planned anytime during the school year. Invite your state representatives and senators to school before they are asked to bring their legislative funding priorities to the Senate President. ***Advocate for continued funding in the next budget in support of school health services programs.***

You can access the “tool kit” of documents to help you implement a legislator visit at www.msno.org. The tool kit includes a sample of an invitation to your local legislators for a school visit, a letter to be sent to your school superintendent, principal or school committee as needed, a press release about the legislator’s visit, and a follow up thank you notes to legislators and school personnel.

Invite your legislators to your school/office and educate them about the role of school nurses and school health services programs in supporting and strengthening school communities.

- Share with legislators data regarding your daily student encounters and health conditions. *Include increasing numbers of students with health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, life-threatening allergies, and mental health issues. Alert them to how much time you spend each day providing health care and education regarding specific health conditions, e.g., approximately 35 minutes/day caring for a student with type 1 diabetes.*
- Educate legislators regarding your efforts (surveillance, education, and vaccination) to *monitor/prevent outbreaks of communicable illnesses such as flu, COVID, and Ebola.*
- Educate legislators about school nursing’s impact on the education process, for example, a *92% return to class rate, which leads to increased in student attendance rates, increased time on learning, improved academics, and decreased drop-out rates.*
- Explain the increasing need for maintaining and expanding school nursing services: *At least 28% of school children are affected by a physical or mental disorder requiring complex nursing care. More and more children attend school with significant behavioral health issues across all age groups. Student health needs are expected to rise as more premature infants survive, and life expectancy increases for children with long-term health issues.*
- Alert legislators to school nurses’ collaboration with school student support teams to create Safe and Supportive Learning environments.
- Advocate for level funding for budget line item # 4590-0250 in support of school health services programs for children in all school districts across the Commonwealth.
- Educate legislators about your use of electronic student health records (i.e., SNAP, Healthmaster) and their value in providing accurate data to track trends, provide more effective support for students, and build a more robust school health services programs.

Ask your legislators to make school health services a top funding priority in the next budget!

Let us know if you schedule a legislator visit and tell us how it went.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XNM0iZyKmxq0uHKQZTrohvHPhA3qYZzcRVcKlCd bH-g/edit?ts=63bcf05>